



February 8, 2000

EIS001440

Ms. Wendy Dixon
EIS Program Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site
Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307, M/S 010
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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Dear Ms. Dixon:

1 [This is to express my opposition to the proposed shipment of nuclear waste from power
plants (or any other sources) to Yucca Mountain. I am an electrical engineer with fifteen years
of industry experience and seventeen years of college teaching experience. As a high school
senior in 1961, I represented the St. Louis Public Schools at the National Youth Conference on
the Atom in Chicago. My engineering education at St. Louis University included a course in
nuclear engineering. I am a member of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers
(IEEE), and the IEEE Society on Social Implications of Technology.

2 [As an engineer, I know how intractable the nuclear waste problem is. The only answer is
3 prevention—that is the waste should not be generated in the first place. The waste that has been
piling up for decades at the nuclear power plants should be left in-place for the foreseeable future,
and the plants should be taken off-line and decommissioned. The waste should not be rolling
down our highways and railroad lines through populated areas. It also should not be sent to the
Yucca Mountain site, or to Apache reservations or anywhere else.]

4 [Many of the waste ingredients are characterized by half-lives that exceed all of recorded
history. There is no engineering precedent for designing *anything* that can guarantee safe storage
for even a fraction of the 10,000 years arbitrarily mandated by Congress. (The 10,000 year
specification by Congress is comparable to the Indiana State legislature's attempt in the 1920's to
establish the number pi.)

Sincerely,

Charles J. Guenther, Jr.
Professor, Engineering & Technology

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